

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 SP-02

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O R 301825Z MAY 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5544

AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2584

LIMDIS

MADRID FOR PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FROM SOCIALIST UNION
OF POPULAR FORCES

REF: RABAT 2572

1. LEADER OF MOROCCAN OPPOSITION SOCIALIST UNION OF POPULAR
FORCES ABDERRAHIM BOUABID CALLED ON ME AT KING'S BEHEST
MAY 30 TO CONVEY ORAL MESSAGE FOR
PRESIDENT IN MADRID REGARDING SPANISH SAHARA. BOUABID
REQUESTED PRESIDENT USE HIS GOOD OFFICES WITH SPAIN IN ORDER
TO HELP MOROCCO RECOVER SAHARA AND TO AVERT BREAKDOWN OF
STABILITY IN AREA. HE USED BASIC ARGUMENTATION CONTAINED
IN ISTIQLAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT (REFTEL). HE STRESSED UTILITY OF
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US FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH SIDES, WHICH HE SAW AS CONSIDERABLE

ASSET TO MOROCCO. HE ALSO UNDERLINED VIEW THAT RECENT SPANISH ANNOUNCEMENT TO ACCELERATE DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA HAD AROUSED FEARS AND THEREBY LED TO INCREASE OF TENSION IN AREA. BOUABID, DETECTING POSSIBILITY OF SPANISH-ALGERIAN COLLUSION, SAID NEW SITUATION CREATED BY SPANISH ANNOUNCEMENT COULD VERY WELL BRING MOROCCO INTO CONFRONTATION WITH ALGERIA AND QUESTIONED WHAT SPANISH INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

2. BOUABID REVEALED THAT HE AND ISTIQLAL LEADER BOUCETTA HAD BOTH BEEN INVITED TO DINE WITH KING MAY 29 AND THAT KING HAD ASKED THEM TO UNDERTAKE THESE DEMARCHES TO PRESIDENT ON BEHALF OF THEIR PARTIES. HE ADDED THAT KING HAD ALSO SPOKEN OF SENDING DIRECT PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT, BUT BOUABID WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE OR WOULD IN FACT BE CARRIED OUT.

3. AS IN MY MEETING WITH BOUCETTA, I STRESSED NEED FOR MOROCCAN CAUTION AND RESTRAINT IN FACE OF NEW SITUATION. ORDERLY PROCESS SHOULD BE GIVEN TIME TO DEVELOP AND PREVAIL, I EMPHASIZED. BOUABID EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR MODERATE APPROACH BUT WAS CONCERNED THAT INDEPENDENT ENTITY MIGHT ABRUPTLY BE ESTABLISHED IN SAHARA WHICH WOULD PRECIPITATE AN UNWANTED BLOW UP. HE FELT THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF "FULL AGREEMENT" KING HAD ALREADY REACHED WITH MAURITANIA ON FUTURE OF SAHARA.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THAT KING MIGHT ALSO BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH IT NOW CLEAR HE IS ANXIOUS TO MAKE PRESIDENT AWARE OF MOROCCAN VIEWS ON SAHARA. AS IN CASE OF ISTIQLAL APPROACH, BOUABID WAS VERY MODERATE, IN KEEPING WITH GOOD RELATIONS HIS PARTY HAS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN WITH US. BOUABID AVOIDED BEING DRAWN OUT ON NATURE OF KING'S "FULL AGREEMENT" WITH MAURITANIA. A DEAL HAS BEEN RUMORED, BUT FACTS HAVE NOT EMERGED.
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